

TEACHER'S NOTES

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Chapter 12	Jesus Grows Up
Lesson 3	Growing up in Nazareth

AIMS

1. Children will have an insight into the circumstances of the child Jesus' life.
2. They will learn about the daily life and duties of the boy Jesus.
3. They will understand their statues may represent saints, who are in Heaven.

STEP 1

Explain to the children that very few details are known about the life of the child Jesus in Nazareth, because the Bible is nearly silent about this period. This phase of the saviour's life is sometimes referred to as "the hidden years." However, one can imagine what his childhood may have been like from what is known about Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the community in which they lived.

STEP 2

Invite the children to imagine that they are living at the time of Jesus, more than 2000 years ago. They can imagine that they are neighbours with the Holy Family. They do not have televisions, stereos or videogames. In fact, there is no electricity in their homes (no lights, no refrigerators, no heating, no washing machines, etc.). The children would probably spend their days helping their parents. At that time mothers cared for the home by making clothes, cooking meals, cleaning etc. Children might carry water from the village well to the home so that dishes could be cleaned and clothes washed by hand. They probably helped their father in what ever trade they pursued (cobbler, carpenter, blacksmith, farmer). They would have only a few toys but they will amuse themselves with balls, marbles, and other simple games. When it got dark at night, they would light candles.

STEP 3

Explain to the children that it was this kind of life that Mary, Joseph and Jesus knew. In some ways it was a difficult life, but it was also a simple and good life. Mary took care of the home, making and mending clothes, cooking meals and cleaning. She also taught Jesus about God and the Jewish laws, prayers and rituals. Joseph worked hard in his carpentry shop making furniture for the people of the town of Nazareth.

STEP 4

Discuss with the children what sort of a son Jesus must have been to Mary and Joseph (helpful, cheerful, obedient, etc.). Also discuss what kind of a friend and neighbours He, Mary, and Joseph must have been (friendly, generous, kind, helpful, humble).

STEP 5

Direct the children look at the pictures in the children's packs of families doing things together that the Holy Family would have done: working together, praying together, singing together, reading, together, playing together and eating a meal together. Discuss this with the children.

STEP 6

Help the children to complete the chart in their pack. This is a chart that sorts out the various duties and qualities of Mary and Joseph that they have been learning about.

STEP 7

If possible, make a visit to the Blessing Sacrament and point out the statues of Mary and Joseph to the children. Explain that statues help people remember the holy men and women who are now saints in Heaven, like Mary and St Joseph.

It is much like having family pictures on your wall or on display at home. No one prays to the statues, but a person may ask the saints that the statues represent to pray for them - it is similar to asking family or friends pray for us.

CONCLUDE

1. Review Catechism Question 29 with the children.
2. Recite the short Litany of St Joseph from the children's pack. Have the children respond, "Pray for us."
1. Sing "Come, though long expected Jesus," *Adoremus hymnal*, # 310.

PREVIEW

In our next lesson, we will learn more about how Jesus, by His own example, teaches us how to keep the Fourth Commandment: Honour thy father and mother.